

Annual State Goals and Reports of Progress

Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds

State Unified Plan

As per the "Vision and Goals" section of the State Unified Plan, this attachment to the Vocational Rehabilitation state plan details the Designated State Unit's (DSU's) goals and plans for the distribution of supported employment funds. These goals and plans specifically deal with the accomplishment of the vision and goals statement in the South Dakota Unified Plan. Public vocational rehabilitation is a full partner in the development and implementation of the South Dakota Career Center system. This attachment details goals and plans for public vocational rehabilitation in achieving objectives for consumers served under Title IV of the workforce investment as well as outlining the provision of necessary supports and training to all individuals with disabilities served by this State Unified Plan who are not consumers of vocational rehabilitation. The DSU extends expertise on the state and local level to workforce partners and to the State Workforce Development Council concerning issues related to supported employment to include natural supports and identification of long term supports.

Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds

The South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services is committed to ensuring that rehabilitation services are made available on a statewide basis to individuals with the most severe disabilities who have not traditionally been competitively employed or for whom competitive employment has been interrupted or intermittent. These services are available through the Supported Employment Program.

South Dakota's annual allotment of Title VI-B funds is \$300,000. Over 95% of the Title VI-B funds are spent for consumer services. The state spends less than 5% of its allotment of Title VI-B funds for administrative costs. Supported employment funds are not expended until individuals with disabilities have been determined eligible for the 110 Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Supported Employment services are purchased by the vocational rehabilitation counselors through an authorization system. Expenditures exceeding the Title VI-B allotment were covered with funds from the 110 Program.

The Division will continue to expend over 95% of the Title VI-B funds on direct services for supported employment consumers. Supported employment expenditures exceeding the Federal allotment will continue to be paid from the 110 Vocational Rehabilitation funds. Supported employment funds will be authorized to approved providers of the consumer's choice. The amount of funds authorized will be based upon the individual's needs, type of placement, hours and type of employment.

During the next fiscal year, the Division plans to distribute the Title VI-B funds through the fee for service system as traditionally done in previous years. This allows for consumers who have greater needs to receive the level of services necessary to help them obtain supported employment. The Division will also continue outcome-based contracts with mental health centers for supported employment services for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. This model of contract has encouraged the mental health centers to provide supported employment services and is a more accessible method of supported employment services for these consumers. We feel these initiatives will help promote the employment of individuals with the most severe disabilities.